(b) since when are those cases under investigation and the reasons for delay in the finalisation thereof, and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the completion/ finalisation of investigation and submission in the courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) As on September 30, 1996, 1866 cases were under investigation with various branches of the CBI.

(b) the details of pendency of these cases is as under :-

| | |
|---|---|
| (i) less than 6 months | 623 |
| (ii) over 6 months but less than 1 year | 421 |
| (iii) over 1 year but less than 2 years | 398 |
| (iv) over 2 years | 424 |
| Total | 1866 |

The delay in completion of investigation is caused due to reasons such as complicated nature of cases, references made to experts, Letters Rogatory sent abroad to various countries who have different legal systems, investigations spread over to several States all over the country etc.

(c) The progress of cases at investigation stage and thereafter is closely monitored by Senior CBI Officers and bottlenecks removed wherever required for submission of cases in the courts where these are decided as per the law of the land.

**Food Processing Industries**

2738. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there are ample scope of setting up of food processing industries in Southern Assam particularly that of pine apple, orange and jack fruit, and

(b) whether Government is considering to do the needful to set up such industries in Southern Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) and (b). A lot of potential exists for the development of food processing industries through out the country which is evident from that fact that considerable investments are being attracted to this Sector since liberalisation. Government have taken various steps to promote food processing industries in the country which inter alia include declaration of most food processing industries as high priority, delicensing of food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sector, promoting domestic/ foreign/NRI investments etc. Government is also operating various Plan Schemes for promoting food processing industries in the country.

While the Ministry does not set up any food processing unit in any State directly, under the Plan Schemes being operated by the Organisations/Joint/ Assisted Sector/Cooperatives/Voluntary Organisations etc. for setting up/upgradation/expansion of food processing facilities, Financial assistance amounting to Rs.752.28 lakhs has been extended in respect of proposals received from Assam, during the first four years of the Eighth Plan.

**Dereservation of Ice-Cream and Backery Items**

2739. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for dereservation of ice-cream and backery items from the small-scale sector,

(b) whether the Government propose to allow multi nationals in these items, and

(c) the effect of such suggestion/proposals on the small-scale sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) to (c). As per the current policy ice-cream and bakery items are reserved for manufacturing in the small scale sector.

**Land Allotment**

2740. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cooperative Group Housing Societies whose lakhs of rupees is held up with the Parshad Cooperative Bank are being deprived of the land allotment despite the fact that these societies have already deposited the amount demanded by DDA without adjusting held up amount,

(b) if so, the names of such societies alongwith the reasons for non-allotment of land;

(c) whether DDA has adjusted any interest amount of Rs.5 lakh already deposited by these societies